

MINUTES
of the
SANTA BARBARA METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DATE: January 16, 2001

PLACE: 550 Olive Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Lee Moldaver, Directors Robert Hankins, Deborah Looker and Rich Untermann and General Manager Gary Gleason

OTHERS PRESENT: Gil Garcia (City of Santa Barbara Councilmember), Bill Derrick (Santa Barbara County Association of Governments), Tom Murphy (Air Pollution Control District), Jill Frandsen and Heather Ryan (Sustainable Economic and Environmental Development), Zail Coffman and Jill Yarussi (MTD)

1. Call to Order

Chair Moldaver called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

2. Roll Call of the Board of Directors

Chair Moldaver noted that all directors were present but Director Britton.

3. Report Regarding Posting of Agenda

General Manager Gary Gleason reported that the agenda for this meeting was posted at the MTD administrative headquarters one week prior to the meeting and mailed to local media of general circulation.

4. Approval of Prior Minutes

Director Hankins moved to waive the reading of and approve the minutes for the meeting of January 2, 2000. Director Looker seconded the motion. A vote on the motion was taken and the minutes were approved unanimously.

5. Cash Report and Payment of Claims

Director Untermann moved to adopt the cash report and payment of claims for the period of December 26, 2000 through January 8, 2000. Director Hankins seconded the motion. After some discussion, the motion to approve the cash report was passed by a unanimous vote of the board.

6. Rejection of Claims

Director Looker moved to reject the claim of Ms. Joan Helm, MTD Claim #NI-092200JH. Director Hankins seconded the motion which passed by a vote of three to one.

7. Public Comment

Councilmember Gil Garcia of the City of Santa Barbara, noted that he'd like to meet with MTD representatives to discuss the timeline for the South Coast Transit Plan (SCTP) implementation. Councilmember Garcia also noted that the transit needs hearings for the north county are underway and that MTD's review of those proceedings would be helpful to the City of Santa Barbara and to the process.

Bill Derrick, Executive Director of the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), stated that the TDA unmet transit needs hearings are also underway and that representatives from SBCAG would meet with MTD staff to discuss those proceedings if requested.

Jill Frandsen of Sustainable Economic and Environmental Development (SEED) distributed an article on sustainable development and discussed SEED's interest in the MTD's Calle Real property. Ms. Frandsen stated that SEED would like the property or a portion thereof to be turned into organic farm land. Director Untermann indicated that the board property committee can keep SEED informed as to what the MTD determines is the best use of the land.

Councilmember Garcia requested that the MTD work with Easy Lift Transportation and noted that paratransit funding should be included in the SCTP. Chair Moldaver noted that it may be practical to invite Tom Roberts, Director of Easy Lift, to a board meeting to discuss these issues further. Director Untermann expressed interest in merging all the transit operations in Santa Barbara County in an effort to work cooperatively.

8. Review and Discussion of California Air Resources Board Emission Standards

The General Manager stated that the California Air Resources Board (CARB) emission standards have been directed to urban transit buses and noted that the decision as to which path the MTD will choose, will be determined at the next board meeting.

Zail Coffman, consultant to the MTD who has worked extensively on the CARB standards, reviewed the new regulations and MTD's requirements under both the diesel path and the alternative fuel path. Mr. Coffman noted that the diesel path allows a great deal of flexibility with respect to bus purchases, but that retrofits of diesel buses must occur two years earlier to be in compliance. Mr. Gleason added that the diesel path does not preclude the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles, which is consistent with the MTD's plan to significantly increase its electric bus fleet.

Director Untermann noted that the diesel path provides more flexibility with no negative impacts, but that the alternative fuel path seems to have no real benefits for the MTD.

Tom Murphy, Planning and Technology Supervisor at the Air Pollution Control District (APCD), thanked the MTD for its efforts to provide a non-polluting transit system and noted that the APCD has funding for clean air projects that go beyond the requirements of current regulations. Mr. Murphy stated that the APCD will continue to monitor the progress of hybrid vehicles and would like to continue to work with the MTD.

Mr. Derrick stated that the SBCAG would like the decision to be based on practicality and that the MTD should note that the next round of CMAQ funding is coming up. Mr. Derrick also stated that replacement buses may be in competition for these funds and that projects are prioritized based on emissions reductions rather than cost.

Mr. Murphy stated that if the MTD chooses a diesel path, MTD should clarify that it will buy 39 electric buses and retrofit the diesel fleet two years earlier, which is doubly beneficial for the APCD and the community of Santa Barbara. Chair Moldaver noted that the MTD's commitment to clean air is unwavering and the diesel path provides the necessary flexibility. Director Untermann suggested that MTD adopt the name "flexible fuel path" for the diesel path to remove potential misunderstandings of the MTD's goals.

9. General Manager's Report

The General Manager reported that he would like schedule several board committee meetings.

Mr. Gleason noted that the MTD staff is working closely with the staff of the City of Santa Barbara on the Line 3 and bus stop enhancements including benches and trash cans. The General Manager also noted that all of the shuttles which had been ordered for Carpinteria under the SCTP have arrived. Two shuttles are currently in service and four others need to be licensed before being placed onto the routes, according to Mr. Gleason.

The General Manager reported that Senator Diane Feinstein will serve on the federal Transportation Appropriations Committee and that the new Secretary of Transportation in the Bush administration is familiar with California which is favorable. Additionally, Mr. Gleason stated that he will meet with the ranking democratic congressman on the Transportation Subcommittee to discuss the MTD and its future plans.

10. Other Business and Committee Reports

Director Untermann noted that he would like to see the MTD operating on a larger scale. Mr. Derrick commented that although he agrees that transit in Santa Barbara County should be integrated, there are distinct differences in opinion with respect to the use of the TDA funding.

Director Hankins reported that the Santa Barbara Electric Transportation Institute's (ETI) board met and that the ETI will get a prototype electric bus in August. Director Hankins stated that the ETI is working to obtain additional funding to build a hybrid bus.

Finally, Director Hankins stated that he will not attend the January 30, 2001 board meeting to allow the board to proceed in the selection of the at-large board director position. Director Hankins noted that he would continue to serve if asked by the board.

11. Adjournment

Director Hankins moved to adjourn the meeting and Director Untermann seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.